

FROM
“THE KLONDIKE STAMPEDE”

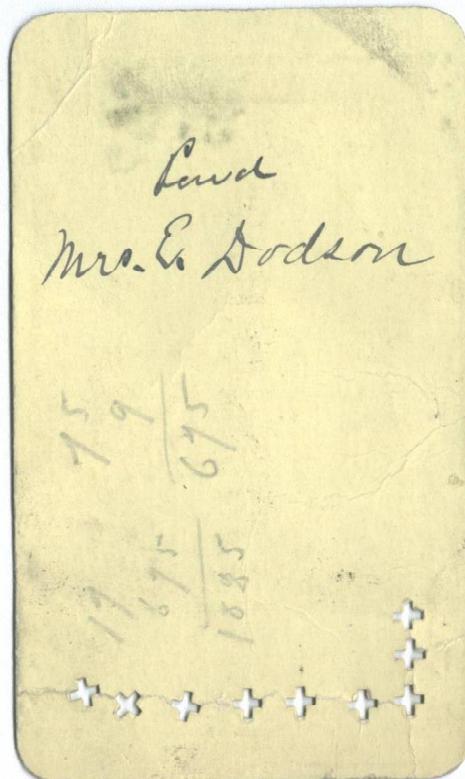
by Tappan Adney, 1900

In the February, 1999 issue, Jim Robb brought us a few short excerpts from Tappan Adney's classic "The Klondike Stampede." Your editor has recently read this book (its about time!), and found a few other items that we think readers will find of interest.

The first is a bit about the **Opera House** (page 338): "Of the half-dozen or more places of amusement and recreation, the most pretentious was the "Opera House," a large log building, with a bar and various gambling lay-outs in front, and a theatre in the rear, with a stage, boxes at each side, and benches on the floor for the audience. It gave vaudeville performances, lasting several hours each evening, the performers being mostly a troupe who stampeded with the rest from Circle City. The price of admission, strange to say, was at the low price of "four bits," or half a dollar, admission being secured, according to the usual Yukon custom, by first purchasing for that sum a drink or cigar at the bar. At the end of the performance the benches were taken up, and dancing began and continued all night. The receipts of the place were enormous, footing upwards of \$22,000 a month. Early on Thanksgiving morning, after an uproarious masquerade ball, the dry building caught fire, and the next morning saw only the blackened ruins of Dawson's first theatre."

The next excerpt is about meal tickets (page 393). "The "Regina Cafe," along side the North American Transportation and Trading Company's warehouse gave, in my estimation, the best meals in town. It was in charge of one of the best San Francisco *chefs*. The linen was white and neat, there were arm-chairs of oak, and the service was of china and silver, such as one would find in a fairly well-to-do household at home. Here, besides every conceivable variety of food that is canned, one could order an oyster-pattie or a mayonnaise dressing! The price of dinner was \$2.50; breakfast, \$1.50; or a ticket entitling one to twenty-one meals could be purchased for \$30."

continued on page 36



A neat “commutation” (meal) ticket that may be from Dawson, 100 by 60mm, black on beige (submitted by Richard Reisinger). For more information, see page 36.

EDITORIAL

This month, we reach back to Tappan Adney and “The Klondike Stampede.” Several passages are of interest to token collectors.

This month was a good month for feedback from readers. The below, and the right column provides information not provided in the original articles.

I am very pleased that this month we present additional information such as this. This is why I started this newsletter 23 year ago. Many times, the exchange of information is one way: I, or a guest writer provides information and that is the end of it. By getting a two way flow of information, we succeed in communicating. The more people we have writing for the newsletter, the better that communication will be. Special thanks go to Charles Kemp, Ivan Thoral and Lew Egnew.

Just today, the July 24 issue of Numismatic News Weekly arrived with Cliff Mishler’s article about his “Travels in Alaska.” Granted, it is not up to the level of Schwatka’s book, but it certainly has more numismatic information. He has ferreted out items that we have not seen before. He was also very kind in featuring our 2002 Fairbanks Gold Discovery medal (see page 37 in this issue).

SKAGWAY CHECK

Charles Kemp identifies the name on the First Bank of Skagway check featured in our May/June issue by the endorsement on the back as E. (Earnest) Lucavish.

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1/8 page (business card size) - \$15 for 5 issues

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MYSTERY TOKENS



The Bank Coffee House was located on the right limit of Johnson Creek (Chathenda on the maps) in the gold rush settlement of Chisana, also called Shushanna by the Indians, meaning sandy water.

The Bank Coffee House was taken by a flood, sometimes in the early 1920s, I think.

The only remains that I know of is a door that now serves as the kitchen entrance of the “Big House” which was the post office until about 1936.

There is no city name on the Bank Coffee House tokens perhaps because the tokens were made prior to the establishment of the location of the enterprise.

Ivan Thoral
Chisana, Alaska

EXPLORING EXPEDITION

I have a more prosaic idea concerning these medals or tags. I’ve had three of these, each from a different source.

I believe these are equipment tags to be wired to objects or even boxed specimens picked up by the expedition. The small holes without a loop also seems diagnostic for tags. The “Exploring Expedition” ones were all soft white metal, but not lead, so they were intended to be stamped as used for the various ships.

Lew Egnew

Ed. Note: I think that Lew has nailed this one down! Granted, this is speculation, but it makes more sense than a “dog tag” like medal for sailors, or a barter item like I suggested. Since other ships were used to transport items home for the expedition, these tags could have been used to mark the packages. Now, given the number of specimens and boxes, where are all the tags??

KLONDIKE STAMPEDE, CONT.

Finally, an odd check was written in Dawson (page 418): "There have been curious checks presented to cashiers of banks, as when Jay Gould purchased a railroad and drew a check in payment on the back of an old envelope; but probably there never was one more unique than a check presented at the Bank of Commerce in Dawson. It was written on a piece of spruce lumber about six inches square with a wire nail "toe-nailed" into its upper edge. It read:

"Canadian Bank of Commerce.

"Gentlemen. - Please pay W.F. Foster \$3.00 for services rendered.

J.C. Horne & Co.

"By B.

"Dawson City, August 4, 1898."

"The check was duly endorsed "W.F. Foster," and stamped "Paid." The cashier was in doubt what the nail had been driven in for, until Mr. Foster suggested that it might be for "filing" the check."

It is always fun to read contemporary accounts of the gold rush. Where as some are difficult to read because of the grammatical structure, Adney's "The Klondike Stampede" is enjoyable both for its readability and informational content.

KING STREET DINING PARLOR

On the front page of this issue is presented a "commutation ticket" from the King Street Dining Parlor, issued to M. Rosenthal, and signed on the front by the proprietor, Mrs. Dodson, and again on the back marked "Paid Mrs. E. Dodson."

In the Polk's Gazeteer, we find Mrs. Elizabeth Dodson running a coffee shop on 3rd Ave. in 1901. There after, her address is given as Brunswick Rooming House on 2nd Ave. with no occupation listed.

Polk's also lists a Marcus Rosenthal in Dawson from 1901 to 1907.

Not proof positive, but strong enough evidence for us to consider this meal ticket as being from Dawson. This is the third known "commutation ticket" from Dawson, the other two being from the Portland Cafe and the Tanana Restaurant.

NEAT YUKON CHARM



The item above recently appeared on eBay with the following description:

"I have just bought this and don't know anything about it's importance and value. Honest!!! Obviously Masonic, obviously 14 carat gold, it weighs 6.3 grams and measures 1 inch in diameter. Stamped 14k, engraved G.E.M. 1916 on one side, and on the other a very pretty mountain and cottage picture in pink, green and yellow gold and the word YUKON."

We have seen the "Yukon" side of the charm before, with a plain reverse. The addition of the Masonic emblem and the engraving makes this piece special.

YUKON DOG TAX???

This item recently appeared on eBay: "Yukon Dog Tax 1924," approximately 1 inch.



Well, call me a cynic, but I have a hard time accepting this one. The letters appear individually punched into a blank disk. Yukon is the territory, and most dog tax tags were issued by cities and towns.

Perhaps it was for Yukon, Oklahoma?

NEAT WEB SITE!!

<http://www.yakutat-southern.com>

This website is for the Yakutat & Southern Railway. See Yakutat, Benice-3 and the May 1999 issue of this newsletter.

The site has some neat photos, and is selling train souvenirs.

PSEUDO-WHOREHOUSE TOKEN



One of our favorite areas of modern Alaska numismatics is pseudo-whore house tokens. So long as they are accurately described, and there is no intent to defraud, they make an interesting collecting sideline.

The piece illustrated above has recently appeared on eBay.

Skagway: French Alley Bloomers, Across from the AB Hall. Reverse is Miss Kitty's Buttonhole, 1 Brothel token, Skagway, Alaska. Bronze.

This is the first time we have seen this. What was really neat about the listing on eBay, is that the sell had a photo of the establishment. Unfortunately, no size is shown, so we can only guess as to the diameter. Our thanks to eBay seller **richarde13** for offering this neat item!

13th SPACE WARNING SQ.



We offered this medal in the May/June issue before it arrived. It took some time to get here, but they are finally in stock. They are considerably larger than we anticipated.

These are about 50mm in diameter, silver colored base metal, with yellow and blue enamel.

Once again, these are \$9 each, plus \$3 for postage and insurance.

FAIRBANKS GOLD DISCOVERY



We offer these one ounce medals for \$24.95 plus \$3 postage and insurance. The obverse features the Lavelle Young, the riverboat that dropped E.T. Barnett on the shores of the Chena in 1901. Pedro discovered gold on Pedro Creek in 1902. The reverse features Gold Dredge #8, a national historic site.

Please, combine items and pay only one \$3 postage fee.

THIS MONTH'S OFFERINGS - BASEBALL MEDALS

Since it is summer, we thought it was time to offer some Alaska Baseball medals, especially since there is a new one.



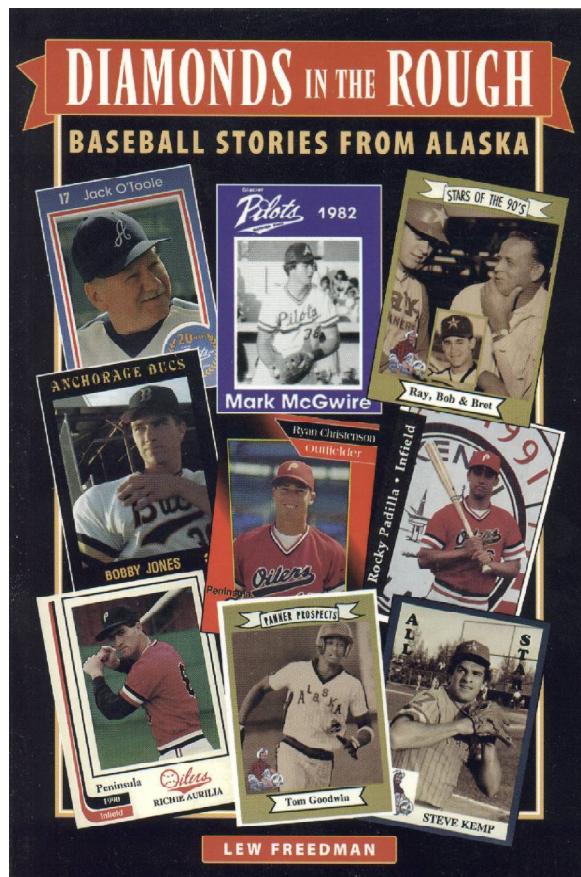
Dave Byrd, formerly of Eielson AFB, and now stationed in Montgomery, Alabama designed the medal shown above. Dave makes the religious pilgrimage to Phoenix with us every October. He is affectionately known as "Stop, Drop and Roll", for his base running antics, the most famous of which featured him falling down three times while running from first to home! He is obviously too fast for his legs (that's his story and he's sticking to it). We are offering these bronze, enameled medals for

\$6.00



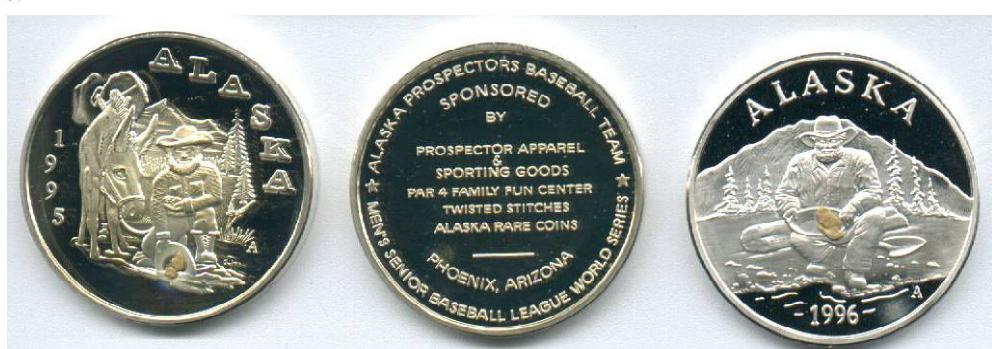
Checkout the Goldpanners website at <http://www.goldpanners.com>. Send them an email and they might sell you the current and past Midnight Sun Games tokens.

If you are a baseball fanatic, we offer for your reading enjoyment "Diamonds in the Rough" by Lew Freedman. You will be amazed how many major leaguers have spent a summer or two in the Alaska League, most notable Tom Seaver, Dave Winfield and Mark McGuire.



The book is priced at **\$14.95**.

Postage and handling is \$3 per order.



Alaska Prospectors Silver Medals. Well, these have sat around long enough. Originally \$50 and \$30 respectively, we will sell a pair for only **\$45.00**. There are only 17 of the 1995 (mintage - 50) and 12 of the 1996 (mintage - 30) remaining.